SZ997-003

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-18 without prejudice or disclaimer and substitute therefor the following new Claims 19-26:

19. Method for determining a currently used bandwidth (CCR) on a connection on which countable information-carrying units are transported, comprising the steps of:

repetitively measuring a duration (ET) of an arrival period during which a predetermined number (M) of said units arrives at a certain point of said connection, said arrival period ending at a point of time (TS);

storing a most recent duration (ET) and a most recent point of time (TS); and

determining that the currently used bandwidth at a current point of time (GT) is said predetermined number (M) divided by said stored most recent duration (ET) if and only if the stored most recent point of time (TS) is not more than a predetermined threshold time interval (THR) before said current point of time (GT).

20. Method according to claim 19 and further comprising the step of:

determining that the currently used bandwidth (CCR) is zero if the stored most recent point of time (TS) is more than the predetermined threshold time interval (THR) before said current point of time (GT).

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~~21.~~ Method according to claim ~~19~~ wherein the value of the predetermined threshold time interval (THR) is stored.

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~~22.~~ Method according to claim ~~19~~ wherein the method is used to determine a currently used bandwidth (CCR) on a plurality of connections to a same network switch.

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~~23.~~ Bandwidth determining apparatus, comprising:

measuring apparatus for repetitively measuring a duration (ET) of an arrival period during which a predetermined number (M) of information-carrying units arrives at a certain point of a connection, said arrival period ending at a point of time (TS);

storage apparatus for storing a most recent duration (ET) and a most recent point of time (TS); and

decision apparatus for determining that the currently used bandwidth at a current point of time (GT) is said predetermined number (M) divided by said stored most recent duration (ET) if and only if the stored most recent point